



## STATE OF MICHIGAN

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# Jones, Birkholz legislation curbing methamphetamine takes effect

*New rules make it more difficult for drug dealers to obtain ingredients*

**LANSING** - It will be harder for drug dealers to get a key component for methamphetamine production after Dec. 15 thanks to new laws sponsored by Rep. Rick Jones and Sen. Patty Birkholz.

Birkholz and Jones joined community leaders including Eaton County Sheriff Mike Raines, Eaton County Prosecutor Jeff Sauter and representatives from Wal-Mart and Meijer to remind the community of the laws' effective date.

"December 15 marks an important battle in the war on drugs. Thanks to law-abiding retailers and pharmacies around Michigan, the supply line for criminals to obtain ingredients for manufacturing this particularly nasty drug will be cut off," said Jones, R-Grand Ledge. "We are sending a message to drug dealers that we will stop you any way we can in order to protect the families and children from this threat to our neighborhoods, schools and entire social fabric."

Ephedrine and pseudoephedrine are key ingredients in many antihistamines and decongestants, but they also are a necessary ingredient in the manufacturing of meth.

Public Acts 86 and 87 of 2005 give retailers three options where to keep products containing these ingredients: 1) behind a counter; 2) in a locked case; or 3) within 20 feet of the counter where they could be monitored, have an antitheft device attached and be under constant video surveillance.

If a seller does not keep the products behind a counter or in a locked case, they must record product purchases and retain the log for at least six months.

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Buyers must be at least 18 years old and present valid identification. The measures exempt pediatric and liquid suspension products.

“We stand here today to announce that this is a war we will not lose,” said Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township. “Through the help of retailers, pharmacies and law enforcement agencies we will stop the spread of meth in our communities. We are all partners in fighting this war on drugs.”

Other states are enacting similar legislation and have seen reduction in meth production. Similar legislation passed in Oklahoma and there was a 70-percent reduction in meth labs in the first nine months.

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